

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 04108 190653Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 /046 W

----- 088592

R 161622Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2568

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY/ECJ4/7-SAO

CSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4108

FOR AF/C DIRECTOR CUTLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, OCLR, MMOL

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S QUESTION ON MAC FLIGHTS

REF: KINSHASA 4064

1. COMMISSARIE D'ETAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUMMONED ME AT 2100 HOURS LAST NIGHT. BULA WAS IN AFFABLE MOOD AND AFTER CHATTING ABOUT SEVERAL SUBJECTS, BROUGHT UP MATTER OF MAY 13 MAC FLIGHT.

2. BULA SAID HE HAD BEEN ASTONISHED TO SEE HUGE US MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHOSE ARRIVAL IN ZAIRE, MISSION AND CARGO WERE UNKNOWN TO ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS. I SAID THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS, MAC FLIGHTS HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE ON REGULAR BASIS FOR YEARS PURSUANT TO A BILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND THAT I HAD SATISFIED MYSELF THAT GOZ CLEARANCE FOR MAY 13 FLIGHT HAD BEEN OBTAINED USING WELL-ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. BULA DID NOT CONTEST THIS STATEMENT. WHAT HAD ALARMED HIM, HE SAID, WAS SIGHT OF LARGE BOXES BEING OFFLOADED INTO WAITING EMBASSY TRUCKS AND DRIVEN AWAY WITHOUT ANY ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS, CUSTOMS OR OTHERWISE, PRESENT. BULA SAID THERE WAS NO OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHERE SUCH A SITUATION COULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 04108 190653Z

OCCUR.

3. I SAID THAT THE MANIFESTS WERE PREPARED SHORTLY BEFORE EACH FLIGHT AND THE EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE A COPY UNTIL THE PLANE LANDED. GIVEN THE FACT THAT CUSTOMS CLEARANCES TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS TO OBTAIN, THE PRACTICE HAD DEVELOPED OF CLEARING THE SHIPMENT ON A POST FACTO BASIS. (SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT THE EMBASSY HAS CEASED SUBMITTING THE COMPUTERIZED MAC MANIFEST TO GOZ CUSTOMS BECAUSE THEY ARE UNINTELLIGIBLE TO ANYONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO READ THE CODE EMPLOYED AND GOZ CUSTOMS APPARENTLY LOST INTEREST IN THEM). BULA SAID HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE BRINGING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. I SCOFFED AT THIS SUGGESTION.

4. BULA THEN PRODUCED PAGES ONE AND TWO OF THE MAY 13 COMPUTERIZED MANIFEST. HE ASKED WHICH ITEMS WERE COVERED BY THE STATEMENT "I HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON ALL DANGEROUS SPECIAL HANDLING CARGO LISTED ON THIS MANIFEST". I SAID I WAS CERTAIN NO SUCH ITEMS WERE ON THE MANIFEST AND THAT THE PHRASE WAS A GENERAL ONE TO COVER SHIPMENTS OF SUBSTANCES SUCH AS ACIDS WHICH HAD RECENTLY CAUSED THE CRASH OF A CARGO PLANE. THE FONMIN COMPLAINED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OUT OF THE MANIFEST AND ASKED THAT IT BE TRANSLATED FOR HIM BY MAY 16. I SAID I WOULD TRY PROVIDED THAT THE KEY TO THE CODE WAS IN KINSHASA. FAILING THAT, BULA REQUESTED THAT I EXAMINE EACH SHIPMENT AND LIST ITS CONTENTS.

5. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND I PRODUCED THE 1963 EXCHANGE OF DUTY FREE ENTRY. BULA OBSERVED THAT IT WAS "OLD". I REPLIED THAT THE US CONSIDERED THE EXCHANGE TO BE A VALID INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: SINCE THE CODE USED IN PREPARING THE MANIFEST IS AVAILABLE HERE, I AM PREPARING A LETTER TO BULA IDENTIFYING EACH SYMBOL ON THE MANIFEST AND POINTING OUT THAT ITEMS (ALL APO MAIL) ADD UP TO 5038 POUNDS WHICH WERE IN A CONTAINER. THE OTHER "BIG BOX" WAS A SHIPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS FOR AN INCOMING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 04108 190653Z

ZAMISH OFFICER. I WILL ALSO STATE THAT THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH GOZ CUSTOMS. COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT MAY 21 MAC FLIGHT PROCEED AS SCHEDULED, AT WHICH TIME WE WILL MAKE EXTRA EFFORT TO SEE THAT ALL RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF GOZ ARE INFORMED OF PLANE'S ARRIVAL AND FACT THAT IT HAS CLEARANCE.  
NEWLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT, CARGO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KINSHA04108  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750175-0242  
**From:** KINSHASA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750546/aaaaboxj.tel  
**Line Count:** 114  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 KINSHASA 4064  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER'S QUESTION ON MAC FLIGHTS  
**TAGS:** OCLR, MMOL, CG, (BULA, MANDUNGU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006